

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name** Dodge County Historical Museum

historic Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Co. Passenger Depot

and/or common Dodge County Historical Museum (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number 127 South Spring Street not for publication

city, town Beaver Dam vicinity of congressional district Second

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dodge code 027

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
		<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> park
			<u>  </u> private residence
			<u>  </u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Beaver Dam; Robert H. Kachelski, Mayor

street & number 205 South Lincoln Avenue

city, town Beaver Dam vicinity of state Wisconsin 53916

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dodge County Courthouse

street & number 127 East Oak Street

city, town Juneau state Wisconsin 53039

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes    no

date 1974    federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Depot is located on Center Street near its intersection with Park Avenue in the heart of Beaver Dam. With its loading platform to the rear still paved with the original red pressed brick and the landscaped front lawn, the site retains its turn-of-the-century flavor; the adjacent Richardsonian Romanesque Williams Free Library (NRHP 1974) expands the character of the landmark setting.

The longitudinal plan is elbow-shaped, with a one-story-plus-attic arm to the north and a one-story arm to the southwest; gable and hipped red tile roofs overhang the respective sections. Large gable dormers cover tall recessed arches containing the double-door entrance and paired waiting room windows on the west side. A double belt course spans the red pressed brick walls at the sill line. Contrasting wood trim includes the wide wood eaves and large brackets on the north gable end and dormers, rafter ends on the east and west sides, east side bay window, west side doors, and window frames. Segmental brick arches top the doors and paired windows on the first story of the building and the dormer lights above; wide stone lintels support from below. A stone-capped exterior chimney rises through the roof at the north end of the building, while a shorter interior stack which once vented the basement-level boiler marks the south end. Multi-paned lights fill the upper doors and windows throughout. Exterior alterations include installation of a large wood freight door in the east side of the former waiting room, and the removal (through brick infill) of the east side freight door in the baggage room; the original freight door in the west side of the baggage room remains.

Now used for collection display by the Dodge County Historical Society, the interior of the former depot was originally broken into a general waiting room; ladies' toilet, ticket office, and vestibule; smoking room; mens' toilet and basement stair; and baggage room, from north to south. Plaster surfaces above paneled pine wainscoting in the waiting rooms have been covered with contemporary wood paneling. Original vertical wood wainscoting and brick walls are still visible in the former baggage room. Although accoustical tile and fluorescent lighting now cover the original plaster ceiling, the hardwood (maple) floors are visible throughout. The two decorative foci of the interior are intact: the former ticket office, with its paneled wood cabinets and bay window, serves as the museum office, open to full view from the vestibule; against the far wall to the north, the brick waiting room fireplace is the center of the museum's "portrait gallery." Some four thousand historical artifacts and memorabilia fill the interior, including a 1902 Rambler, the first car delivered to Beaver Dam, in the former baggage room.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1900<sup>1</sup> Builder/Architect Frost & Granger<sup>2</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

With its picturesque design and high-quality materials and construction, the former Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Depot in Beaver Dam is significant as a fine example of late Victorian era depot design by master railroad architects Frost & Granger.

Constructed in response to citizen complaints about the pre-existing depot, "built on the 7X9 principle - the size and appearance the same as those built for the stations on the prairies of Minnesota, and Dakota" in which Beaver Dam's patrons were "packed like sardines in a box,"<sup>3</sup> the new red brick depot with its cottage-like aspect was admired as "one of the finest passenger depots"<sup>4</sup> on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line. The red tile roof, dormers, wide bracketed eaves, and interior waiting room with large fireplace, easy chairs, and settees contributed to the "home-like and comfortable appearance"<sup>5</sup> for which Frost & Granger depots were known.

The August, 1905 issue of the Architectural Record reported that "the firm of Frost and Granger unlike other architects did not 'strut' in treating buildings of a minor order but by contrast their work reflected moderation and was praised for its civilized home-like air and gentility and was even more value socially than architecturally." Cited were stations at Lake Forest, Illinois, Racine, Wisconsin (NRHP 1980) and Montreal, Canada. Also credited with depots at Watertown (NRHP 1979) and Ashland (NRHP 1979), Wisconsin, Charles Summer Frost (1856–1931) and Alfred Hoyt Granger (1867–1939) were both MIT-trained and established professionally prior to joining in partnership in Chicago in 1898. Before parting in 1910, the firm was to design such landmarks as La Salle Street Station in Chicago, the Chicago & Northwestern Depot in Chicago, the A. F. Holden Home in Cleveland, and the Forbes House in Rockford.

For forty of the fifty years of its active use by the railroad, the Beaver Dam depot welcomed six to eight trains daily.<sup>6</sup> Two years after its sale to the City of Beaver Dam in 1951, the facility was leased to the Dodge County Historical Society for use as a museum. As such, the depot is now approaching its thirtieth year of service to the community as an educational resource.

<sup>1</sup> Beaver Dam Common Council Proceedings; Beaver Dam Citizen, 1900–1901.

<sup>2</sup> Blueprints.

<sup>3</sup> Beaver Dam Argus, February, 1900.

<sup>4</sup> Dodge County Citizen, January 31, 1901.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Beaver Dam Centennial, Inc. Historical Committee, Souvenir Program and Centennial History, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, 1941.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Architectural Record, August, 1905.  
Dodge County Citizen, January 31, 1901.

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Beaver Dam, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

### UTM References

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3	5	1	4	5	1	0
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4	8	1	1	2	9	1	0	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

All of that portion of the south 154 feet of lots 10 and 11 of Block 15 of Brower and Ackerman's Addition to the City of Beaver Dam in the County of Dodge, Wisconsin.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date February, 1981

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Richard K. Mery*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 5/15/81

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Continuation sheet

Item number 11

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FORM PREPARED BY:

Research Assistance by: Margaret L. Macfarlene, Secretary  
Joanne Wells, Curator  
Dodge County Historical Society  
127 South Spring Street  
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin 53916  
(414) 887-1266  
October, 1980